

30 April 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: PP/PYD

Attn: ☐ ☐

SUBJECT : Justification for SR Division Utilization of Athens
Radio Facilities for Clandestine Broadcasting to
the USSR

1. Since, on the basis of propagation studies conducted by the Office of Communications, it has been determined that an audible radio signal can be transmitted from Athens to the Ukraine and the Caucasus areas of the USSR, this staff requests that SR be given first priority in the use of the Athens radio facilities.

2. There are several considerations which lend support to this request:

a. There are no clandestine psychological warfare assets presently available through which we can reach the audience in these strategic areas.

b. The people in these areas will be receptive targets for black broadcasts. In both areas anti-Soviet nationalism is a potent force and can be exploited. It was precisely in these areas that anti-Soviet resistance forces arose during World War II, and the population has suffered since the end of the war from the MGB-MVD campaign to eradicate the remnants of these forces. Mass deportations have occurred in these areas since the war and have added to the hatred of the Soviet regime.

c. In the Ukraine, the Ukrainian Insurgent Army operated against the regime after the war, and although persistent Soviet counter-action has considerably reduced its strength, some of its members are still living illegally, and many more legally, in the hope that their organization can be kept intact until more propitious circumstances develop for overt action.

d. In the Caucasus, mass deportations during and after the war precluded the development of active resistance such as arose in the Ukraine, but these deportations inflamed the hatred of the

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subject peoples for their Soviet masters. It can be assumed that some elements of the deported peoples escaped the Soviet security forces and that the spirit which brought wholesale defection to the Germans during the war still lingers on and breeds passive resistance. There have, in fact, been unconfirmed reports that sparse remnants of the wartime resistance partisans still exist in the mountains of the Caucasus.

e. Although reliable evidence concerning the availability of radios in these areas is lacking, it is known that short wave radios can be bought in the large cities, that members of the Ukrainian underground both legal and illegal do possess radios and listen to foreign broadcasts, and that the Soviet government itself broadcasts on the short wave frequencies to these areas, although on a limited scale. These facts, together with the knowledge that dissatisfied elements can be relied upon to pass on to their friends and compatriots what they hear from the west, give sufficient evidence that broadcasts should be initiated even though the population in general may not have easy access to short wave radio sets.

f. It is believed that even though atmospheric conditions permit audible signals to be received in the areas only for limited periods of time during most of the year, the reasons given above coupled with the need for the Division to develop experienced personnel for future and wartime use in radio operations sufficiently justify SR use of the Athens radio facilities.

3. The aim of these black broadcasts will be to stimulate and intensify discontent and disaffection to the Soviet regime and provide the target audiences with hope of ultimate liberation. This will be accomplished by means of broadcasts in the native language of the target audience, based on factual events and national and cultural history. These broadcasts will stimulate national consciousness among the minority groups addressed, and will urge them to maintain pride in the individuality of their various national cultures. Concurrently, the proposed broadcasts will encourage passive resistance, warning against premature uprisings but urging organized passive resistance which can develop into something more active when conditions permit.

SR/PP/RTA/MCN:cm

Distribution:

- 1 & 1 - Addressee
- 1 - CSR
- 1 - SR/3 & SR/3/W2
- 1 - SR/4
- 2 - SR/PP

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